



Level 7 Samples

3 Reading Comprehension Assessments

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• Reading Comprehension Sample 7.1

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

At the Movies

It was one of those terribly hot days in Baltimore. We always had those for about a month between July and August. They were the days that were so hot that they made you regret ever wishing it would be summer. That day in particular was hotter than I could remember it being. The weatherman on the radio said it would get up to 104°!



Needless to say, it was too hot to do anything outside. But it was also **scorching** in our apartment. This was 1962, and I would not live in a place with an air conditioner for another ten years. So my brother and I decided to leave the apartment to find someplace indoors. I suggested the drug store, because I wanted to get a soda or malt. But he reminded me that the drug store would not let you sit there all day, especially once the afternoon rush started. My brother instead suggested we could see a movie. It was a brilliant plan.

Movie theaters were one of the few places you could sit all day and—most important—sit in air conditioning. In those days, you could buy one ticket and sit through both movies of a double feature. Then, the theater would show the same two movies again after that. If you wanted to, you could sit through them twice. Most people did not do that, but the manager at our theater, Mr. Bellow, did not mind if you did.

That particular day, my brother and I sat through both movies twice, trying to escape the heat. We bought three bags of popcorn and three sodas each. Then, we sat and watched *The Music Man* followed by *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. We'd already seen the second movie once before. It had been at the theater since January, because Mr. Bellow loved anything with John Wayne in it. Watching it again was better than going outside, and at least *The Music Man* was new to us.

We left the theater around 8, just before the evening shows began. Mr. Bellow was expecting a big crowd for the premier of *Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm*, so he insisted that we leave. But we returned the next day and saw the same two movies again, twice more. And we did it the next day too. Finally, on the fourth day, the heat wave broke.

Still, to this day I can sing half the songs in *The Music Man* and quote half of John Wayne and Jimmy Stewart's dialogue from *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*! Those memories are some of the few I have of the heat wave of 1962, and they're not really my memories. They're really memories of the screen, not memories of my life.

Questions

- 1) Based on its use in paragraph 2, the word **scorching** most nearly means
 - A. very hot
 - B. very dry
 - C. very humid
 - D. very affordable

- 2) According to the passage, when did the narrator first live in a place with an air conditioner?
 - A. 1952
 - B. 1962
 - C. 1972
 - D. 1982

- 3) It can be assumed from the passage that the narrator saw *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*
 - A. three times
 - B. five times
 - C. six times
 - D. more than six times

- 4) Which of the following statements best explains why the narrator and his or her brother chose to see the same movies multiple times?
 - A. The drug store would not let them inside.
 - B. They wanted to avoid the heat outside.
 - C. The manager at the theater was friendly.
 - D. They were huge fans of John Wayne.

- 5) What does the narrator mean when he or she writes that the memories are “not really my memories” in the final paragraph?
 - A. that he or she is remembering scenes from a film, not scenes from his or her life
 - B. that the only days of the summer of 1962 that he or she remembers are those days spent in the movie theater
 - C. that the memories are actually those of the narrator’s brother, not the narrator himself or herself
 - D. that he or she saw the films too many times and now can only remember what happened in them

• Reading Comprehension Sample 7.2

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Minnesota State Fair

Every August, the state of Minnesota holds its state fair. The twelve-day-long festival is a celebration of the state. It includes agriculture exhibits, carnival rides, interesting food, and varieties of entertainment.

The **annual** event is the highlight of the summer for many Minnesotans. Locals even refer to it as “the Great Minnesota Get-Together.” Indeed, nearly 2 million people visit the fair every summer. Most have been going every year since they were born.



An Annual Event

Minnesota has held a state fair almost every year since 1859. It held an annual territorial fair prior to becoming a state in 1858. Since then, only wars have prevented the event from happening. The Minnesota State Fair did not happen in 1861 and 1862 because of the Civil War. In 1893, the event was canceled due to the Spanish-American War. It also was not held in 1945 and 1946 because of World War II.

In 1885, the State Fair was held for the first time at its current home. That home is a 320-acre stretch of land near St. Paul. St. Paul is the capital of Minnesota, so this location makes sense. Most states hold their state fairs in their capital cities.

The Minnesota State Fair Grounds are permanent, even though the fair itself is short-lived. When the fair is not going on, other events will use the buildings on the fairgrounds. However, the fair is easily the biggest event on the grounds.

Such Sights, Such Sounds, Such Tastes!

Minnesota was a farm state for most of its history. The State Fairs of old would showcase farm animals, farm tools, and farm techniques. Nowadays, though, most visitors are not farmers. The fair still has agricultural buildings and animals, but most people just glance at them. For most visitors, the real focus is food.

The Minnesota State Fair is now known mostly for strange foods. Nearly everything is fried, and nearly everything is served on a stick. There are foods people get every year: corndogs, cheese curds, and mini donuts. But there are also new foods each year. The new foods especially tend to be unhealthy foods that can be carried throughout the fair. Recent foods have included spaghetti-on-a-stick, deep-fried candy bars, and something called “hotdish-on-a-stick.”

Besides food, visitors can see a butter-carving competition, art made out of seeds, and more traditional crafts. There are several live musical performances each day too. And, of course, no fair would be complete without rides. There is an entire park known as the Midway. It has funhouses, tilt-a-whirls, and other fun rides. It’s probably a good idea to ride them BEFORE eating hotdish-on-a-stick!

Sources:
 Koutsky, Kathryn Strand & Linda Koutsky. *Minnesota State Fair: An Illustrated History*. Minneapolis, MN: Coffee House Press, 2007. Book.

Questions

- 1) As used in paragraph 2, the word **annual** most nearly means
 - A. frequent
 - B. yearly
 - C. large
 - D. permanent

- 2) According to the passage, the Minnesota State Fair moved to its current location in what year?
 - A. 1859
 - B. 1862
 - C. 1885
 - D. 1893

- 3) The author of this passage is most interested in
 - A. describing the Minnesota State Fair to someone who hasn't been to it before
 - B. arguing that the Minnesota State Fair is the most important event of the year
 - C. explaining all the reasons that someone in Minnesota would go to the Minnesota State Fair
 - D. proving that the Minnesota State Fair is not worth attending or visiting

- 4) The information in this passage can be used to support all of the following conclusions EXCEPT for which one?
 - A. The Minnesota State Fair features unusual food each year.
 - B. The Minnesota State Fair is the largest state fair in the nation.
 - C. The Minnesota State Fair is held near the capital of Minnesota.
 - D. The Minnesota State Fair still has agricultural exhibits today.

• Reading Comprehension Sample 7.3

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Amazing Art Form

For most of history, dancing has been part of social or religious celebrations. Dancing is an amazing art form intended to highlight the beauty of movement and the human body. Dancing takes place in many countries around the world. Although the general idea of dancing has remained the same, the actual dances that people perform have changed a lot over time.

In America, dancing changed greatly in the 1960s. Before then, dancing almost always was conducted with a partner. But during the 60s, this changed. You no longer had to dance with a partner. New dances were created that people could do alone on the dance floor. Most of these dances had **striking** names, such as the Mashed Potato, the Funky Chicken, and the Swim.



These names may sound odd, but they make sense when you see the dance moves. To do the Mashed Potato, you walk backwards, twisting your ankles to grind your feet, as if you are mashing potatoes with your feet. To do the Funky Chicken, you tuck your hands into your armpits like chicken wings and flap them up and down. To do the Swim, you wave your arms in front of you as if swimming in the water. These dances were not difficult to do, and lots of people even made them up as they went along.

Over fifty years later, it has become very common for people to dance alone on the dance floor instead of with a partner. Sometimes you still see people doing the dances described above, although many different dances have been created since then. One thing these popular dances have always had in common is there is usually one song that makes them famous. Yet over time the names of dances have become even stranger. For example, the recent dance called Chicken Noodle Soup looks nothing like chickens or soup. This means that today it is often hard to tell what a dance will look like based on the name alone.

Sources:

"Dance Fads." St. Louis Public Library. 2010. Web. 11 Dec. 2012.
Hoffman, Carl. "The Dance Crazes of the 1960s." The 60s Official Site. 7 Dec. 2012. Web. 11 Dec. 2012.

Questions

- 1) The main reason why dances in the 1960s were different from earlier dances is that they
 - A. had funny names
 - B. were not religious
 - C. did not require a partner
 - D. were more difficult to do

- 2) Based on its use in paragraph 2, it can be understood that the word **striking** belongs to which word group?
 - A. usual, traditional, ordinary
 - B. beautiful, lovely, attractive
 - C. hitting, pounding, slamming
 - D. interesting, different, surprising

- 3) Using the information in the passage as a guide, we can understand that dancers who tuck their hands in their armpits and flap their arms up and down are doing the
 - A. Mashed Potato
 - B. Swim
 - C. Funky Chicken
 - D. Chicken Noodle Soup

- 4) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that dances in the 1960s like the Funky Chicken and the Swim were named for the
 - A. clothes that the dancers wore
 - B. way that the dancers moved
 - C. songs that made them popular
 - D. dancers who made them popular

- 5) According to the author, how have the names of dances changed over time?
 - A. They have become less confusing.
 - B. They have become more interesting.
 - C. They have become longer.
 - D. They have become stranger.

- 6) Using the passage as a guide, we can understand that dances from the 1960s are different from the dances today because back then
 - A. the names made sense once you saw the dance
 - B. people did not make things up on the dance floor
 - C. people usually danced to songs with a partner
 - D. a dance was often made popular by one song

- 7) Which of the following would be the most fitting subtitle for this passage?
 - A. The Mashed Potato and the Swim
 - B. Popular Dances Then and Now
 - C. The 1960s Never Really Ended
 - D. Dancing Is Easier than You Think

Sample 7.1
1) A
Question Type: Vocabulary
scorching (*verb*): very hot.

In the second paragraph, the narrator states that “it was too hot to do anything outside. But it was also scorching in our apartment.” The use of also there suggests that the temperatures inside and outside are similar. This means that scorching must likewise mean very hot. Therefore, choice (A) is correct. The second paragraph only describes the heat outside and inside; it does not discuss how much moisture is in the air. Therefore, choice (B) is not correct, and scorching does not likely relate to very dry. The second paragraph only describes the heat outside and inside; it does not discuss how much moisture is in the air. Therefore, choice (C) is not correct, and scorching does not likely relate to very humid. The second paragraph only describes the heat outside and inside; it does not discuss how much things cost. Therefore, it does not follow that scorching describes the price of something, so choice (D) is not correct.

2) C
Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question, we need to find the part of the passage where the narrator discusses air conditioning. This happens in paragraph 2, where he or she writes that “this was 1962, and I would not live in a place with an air conditioner for another ten years.” Ten years past 1962 would be 1972, so choice (C) is correct. The passage never mentions 1952, so choice (A) is not correct. Though the passage takes place in 1962, the narrator makes it clear that he or she did not yet live in a place with an air conditioner in 1962. Therefore, choice (B) is not correct. The passage never mentions 1982, so choice (D) is not correct.

3) D
Question Type: Detail

In the fourth paragraph, the narrator describes seeing *The Music Man* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, adding that he or she had “already seen the second movie once before.” He or she then describes sitting through both movies twice and doing the same thing the next day and the day after that. “On the fourth day, the heat wave broke,” so the narrator stopped seeing movies. Because he or she saw the same two movies twice a day for three days, it follows that he or she saw *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* six times. However, the narrator makes it clear that he or she had already seen the film once before that, so choice (D) is correct. The narrator likely sat through the movie more than six times. Though the narrator went to the movies three days in a row, the passage states that he or she sat through both movies twice each day. Therefore, he or she must have seen *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* at least six times, not three times. Because of this, choice (A) is not correct. The passage states that the narrator went to the movies three days in a row and that he or she sat through both movies twice each day. Therefore, he or she must have seen *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* at least six times, not three times. Because of this, choice (B) is not correct. The passage makes it clear the narrator sat through *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* six times in the three days he or she went to the movies to escape the heat. However, it also notes that the narrator had already seen the movie once before, since it had played at the theater since January. Therefore, he or she must have seen the movie at least seven times, making choice (C) not correct.

4) B
Question Type: Global

In the second paragraph, the narrator explains that he or she and his or her brother wanted to go someplace indoors that had air conditioning. He or she explains, in the third paragraph that “movie theaters were one of the few places you could sit all day and—most important—sit in air conditioning,” so the two siblings went there the first day to do just that. It follows that they returned the next couple of days for the same purpose, and the narrator makes that clear, as they did not go on the fourth day because “the heat wave broke.” This means that they went to the movies to avoid the heat outside, so choice (B) is correct. The passage states that the drugstore would not let the two siblings sit all day inside it, but it does not state that it would not let them inside at all. Choice (A) is not correct because it is too extreme. Though the passage does imply that the movie theater’s manager, Mr. Bellow, was friendly, it does not suggest that the two siblings went into the movie theater only because of that fact. Therefore, choice (C) is not correct. The passage states that Mr. Bellow “loved anything with John Wayne,” implying that he was a huge fan of the actor. At no point in the passage does the narrator suggest that either he or she or his or her brother particularly liked Wayne, so choice (D) is not correct because it confuses information in the passage.

5) A
Question Type: Inference

In the final paragraph, the narrator states that he or she can remember lines of dialogue and songs from the two movies he or she saw so many times during the heat wave of 1962. He or she then adds that, “Those memories are some of the few I have of the heat wave of 1962, and they’re not really my memories. They’re really memories of the screen, not memories of my life.” This suggests that he or she can remember the things from the films, not the experience of seeing them, as though remembering the movie and not his or her own life. That is, he or she remembers the films and not reality. This means choice (A) is correct. Though the narrator does call the memories of parts of the two movies he or she saw in 1962 “some of the few” he or she has of the heat wave of that summer, he or she does not suggest they are the only memories he or she has. The use of “some of the few” implies that he or she has a few memories, and that the movie ones are just some of them. Therefore, choice (B) is not correct. The narrator never describes his or her brother or what he remembers about the heat wave of 1962. As such, choice (C) is not correct. The narrator does imply that he or she saw the films many times and that he or she can remember parts of them to this day, but he or she does not imply that he or she can only remember the films. Choice (D) is not correct, then, because it is too extreme.

Sample 7.2
1) B
Question Type: Vocabulary

annual (*adjective*): happening every year; yearly.

In the second paragraph, the author refers to the Minnesota State Fair as an “annual event.” In other parts of the passage, the author states that the fair occurs “every August,” “every summer,” and “every year.” All of these suggest that the event happens every year and that annual means every year, or yearly. Because of this, choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does suggest that the Minnesota State Fair is a frequent event. However, it also gets more specific. It says the fair happens “every summer” and “every year.” Because of this, annual likely means every year, not just frequent. Choice **(A)** is not correct. The second paragraph refers to the Minnesota State Fair as “the annual event.” At later points in the passage, the author suggests the fair is large, but he or she does not suggest that annual means large. Because of this, choice **(C)** is not correct. The author says that the Minnesota State Fair has a permanent location. He or she does not say the event is permanent though. The word annual is used to describe the event, so annual must not mean the same thing as permanent. Because of this, choice **(D)** is not correct.

2) **C**

Question Type: Detail

In the fourth paragraph, the author writes that, “In 1885, the State Fair was held for the first time at its current home.” This means the event must have moved to its current location in 1895. It also means that choice **(C)** is correct. 1859 is the year that the first Minnesota State Fair was held. It is not the year it moved to its current location, though. Because of this, choice **(A)** is not correct. 1862 is one of the years that Minnesota did not hold its state fair. It is not the year the fair moved to its current location. Because of this, choice **(B)** is not correct. 1893 is one of the years that Minnesota did not hold its state fair. It is not the year the fair moved to its current location. Because of this, choice **(D)** is not correct.

3) **A**

Question Type: Global

The passage has three main sections. In the first part, the author explains what the Minnesota State Fair is. In the second part, he or she describes the history of the fair. In the third part, he or she describes the things one might find there now. Each of these sections helps explain to the reader what the Minnesota State Fair is. They each present pieces of information that someone who has not been to the fair before would not know. Because of this, it is clear the author is most interested in describing the fair to someone who hasn’t been to it before. Choice **(A)** is correct as a result. The passage provides a great deal of information about the Minnesota State Fair. It does suggest that the event is worth going to, but it does not suggest that the fair is the most important event of the year. That would be too extreme for what the author actually says. Because of this, choice **(B)** is not correct. The author suggests that there are reasons Minnesotans would attend the Minnesota State Fair. But the passage does more than mention those. It also provides historic facts about the fair and introduces it to the reader. Because of this, choice **(C)** is not correct. The author seems to be more interested in explaining what the fair is to a person who doesn’t know about it than he or she is with explaining why people in Minnesota like it. In fact, the author seems to provide information to encourage people to attend the Minnesota State Fair. Choice **(D)** is not correct because it suggests that the author would try to make sure people do not go to it.

4) **B**

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 5, the author mentions that The Minnesota State Fair “is easily the biggest event on the grounds.” However, he or she does not say that it is the largest state fair in the nation. Therefore, we can understand that the information in this passage cannot be used to support this conclusion. Choice **(B)** is correct. The second-to-last paragraph describes the strange foods one can get at the Minnesota State Fair. These include “spaghetti-on-a-stick, deep-fried candy bars, and something called ‘hotdish-on-a-stick.’” Choice **(A)** is not correct because it provides a statement about the Minnesota State Fair that can be supported using the information in this passage. In the fourth paragraph, the author writes that the Minnesota State Fair is held near St. Paul and that “St. Paul is the capital of Minnesota.” Choice **(C)** is not correct because it provides a conclusion about the Minnesota State Fair that can be supported using the information in this passage. In the sixth paragraph, the author writes that “the fair still has agricultural buildings and animals.” This means that the fair still shows agricultural exhibits today. Choice **(D)** is not correct because it provides a conclusion about the Minnesota State Fair that can be supported using the information in this passage.

Sample 7.3

1) **C**

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “In America, dancing changed greatly in the 1960s. Before then, dancing almost always was conducted with a partner. But during the 60s, this changed. You no longer had to dance with a partner.” This means that the reason “dancing changed greatly in the 1960s” is because people did not need to dance with a partner anymore. In the 1960s, people began to do dances “alone on the dance floor.” From this we can understand that the main reason that dances from the 1960s were different from earlier dances is they did not require a partner. Therefore **(C)** is correct. In paragraph 2, the author tells us that most of the new dances in the 1960s “had striking names, such as the Mashed Potato, the Funky Chicken, and the Swim.” This means that most dances in the 1960s did have funny names. However, the author does not tell us the names of earlier dances. They may have also had funny names. This means this is not the main reason that dances from the 1960s were different from earlier dances. This eliminates **(A)**. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “For most of history, dancing has been part of social or religious celebrations.” However, this does not mean that all dances that came earlier than the 1960s were religious, or that the dances from the 1960s were not religious. This makes **(B)** incorrect. The author does not suggest that dances in the 1960s were more difficult to do than earlier dances. In fact, in paragraph 3, he or she writes that dances in the 1960s “were not difficult to do.” This means **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **D**

Question Type: Vocabulary

striking (*adjective*): attracting attention by being unusual, extreme, or noticeable; surprising.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, "Most of these dances had striking names, such as the Mashed Potato, the Funky Chicken, and the Swim." To understand what the word striking means, it is helpful to look at the next sentence. In the beginning of paragraph 3, the author tells us that "these names may sound odd." From the examples given and the fact that the author calls them "odd," we can understand that these names were different or unusual. This means that striking belongs to the word group *interesting, different, surprising*. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The author says that these names "sound odd," which means they are unusual. From this we know that striking does not belong to the word group *usual, traditional, ordinary*. This eliminates **(A)**. While some people may find these names attractive, the author does not suggest that they are. Instead, he or she notes that these names "sound odd." The author draws attention to the fact that these names are unusual, so we can understand that striking likely does not belong to the word group *beautiful, lovely, attractive*. This makes **(B)** incorrect. In another context, the word strike can mean to hit or pound. However, in this context, it is used with a different meaning to say that the names are surprising. This means in this context striking does not mean *hitting, pounding, slamming*. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

3) C
Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses how people do different dances in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 3 reads: "These names may sound odd, but they make sense when you see the dance moves." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in paragraph 3. In paragraph 3, the author writes, "To do the Funky Chicken, you tuck your hands into your armpits like chicken wings and flap them up and down." This means that dancers who tuck their hands in their armpits and flap their arms up and down are doing the Funky Chicken. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) B
Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 3, the author writes, "These names may sound odd, but they make sense when you see the dance moves." From this we can understand that the names of dances in the 1960s were related to the dance moves. Then the author gives some examples: "To do the Mashed Potato, you walk backwards, twisting your ankles to grind your feet, as if you are mashing potatoes with your feet. To do the Funky Chicken, you tuck your hands into your armpits like chicken wings and flap them up and down. To do the Swim, you wave your arms in front of you as if swimming in the water." Since the names are related to the way the dancers moved, we can understand that dances in the 1960s like the Funky Chicken and the Swim were named for the way that the dancers moved. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The author does not say anything about the clothes that the dancers wore in the 1960s. This eliminates **(A)**. In the final paragraph, the author writes, "One thing these popular dances have always had in common is there is usually one song that makes them famous." However, this does not mean that the dances were named for the songs that made them popular. This makes **(C)** incorrect. The author does not suggest that these dances were named for the specific dancers who made them popular. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

5) D
Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses how dances have changed over time in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of the final paragraph reads: "Over fifty years later, it has become very common for people to dance alone on the dance floor instead of with a partner." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in the final paragraph. In the final paragraph, the author writes, "Yet over time the names of dances have become even stranger." This tells us that over time the names of dances have become stranger. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) A
Question Type: Global

In paragraph 3, the author describes some popular dances from the 1960s. He or she writes, "These names may sound odd, but they make sense when you see the dance moves." This means that dances from the 1960s had names that made sense once you saw the dance. However, in the final paragraph, the author writes, "Yet over time the names of dances have become even stranger." For example, the recent dance called Chicken Noodle Soup looks nothing like chickens or soup. This means that today it is often hard to tell what a dance will look like based on the name alone." This tells us that today the names of dances often do not make sense, even after you have seen the dance. From this we can understand that dances from the 1960s are different from dances today because then the names made sense once you saw the dance. Therefore **(A)** is correct. In paragraph 3, the author writes of dances in the 1960s: "Lots of people even made them up as they went along." This means that in the 1960s people did make things up on the dance floor. This makes **(B)** incorrect. In paragraph 2, we learn that in the 1960s "new dances were created that people could do alone on the dance floor." This means that in the 1960s people did not usually dance to songs with a partner. This means **(C)** is incorrect. In the final paragraph, the author writes, "One thing these popular dances have always had in common is there is usually one song that makes them famous." This tells us that dances in the 1960s were similar to dances today because a dance was often made popular by one song. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

7) B
Question Type: Global

A good subtitle captures the main idea of a passage and lets readers know what to expect should they continue reading. In paragraph 1, the author introduces the topic of dancing by writing, "For most of history, dancing has been part of social or religious celebrations. Dancing is an amazing art form intended to highlight the beauty of movement and the human body. Dancing takes place in many countries around the world." In paragraph 2, the author writes, "In America, dancing changed greatly in the 1960s,

when you no longer had to dance with a partner.” In paragraph 3, the author describes some of the dances that were popular in the 1960s, such as the Mashed Potato, the Funky Chicken, and the Swim. In the final paragraph, the author writes, “Over fifty years later, it has become very common for people to dance alone on the dance floor instead of with a partner.” In this paragraph the author describes some similarities and differences between dances in the 1960s and dances today. This means that the main idea of this passage is popular dances in the 1960s and today. From this we can understand that the most fitting subtitle for this passage is *Popular Dances Then and Now*. Therefore **(B)** is correct. Although the author discusses the Mashed Potato and the Swim, he or she also discusses other dances such as the Funky Chicken and Chicken Noodle Soup. This means **(A)** is incorrect. In the final paragraph, the author writes, “Sometimes you still see people doing the dances described above, although many different dances have been created since then.” However, he or she does not go so far as to suggest that the 1960s never really ended. This eliminates **(C)**. In paragraph 3, the author describes how to do dances like the Mashed Potato, the Funky Chicken, and the Swim. However, the main idea of the passage is not to convince readers that dancing is easier than they think. This makes **(D)** incorrect.